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Raborn Heads CIA

Vice Admiral William F. (Red) Raborn, Jr., "the father of the Polaris missile," has been picked by President Johnson for one of the toughest jobs in government—Director of Central Intelligence,

Raborn, 59, retired from the Navy in September, 1963 after 39 years service. He then joined the Aerojet General Corporation as vice president for project management and was with that company when the President appointed him to the CIA post in a surprise move. He succeeds John A. McCone, who is returning to his business in California.

Admiral Arleigh A. Burke, then Chief of Naval Operations, picked Raborn in 1955 to head what became the Navy's Special Projects Office for the development of the Fleet Ballistic Missile system-better known as the Polaris. He could hardly have made a better choice. Raborn and his Navy-Industry team beat the original development schedule by a couple years. The almost-incredible weapon, which can be fired from land, surface ship or from a submerged submarine, has given the United States its No. 1 strategic deterrent.

When Raborn left Special Projects to take up new duties as Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Research and Development in 1961, he was awarded a Distinguished Service Medal by President Kennedy.